

ARIZONA VITAL RECORDS WELCOMES PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Beginning January 1, 2011 physician assistants can medically certify cause of death and sign death certificates in the state of Arizona.

Since this is a role never before played by our state's physician assistants, we at Arizona Vital Records, would like to direct physician assistants to the resources we have available to inform and assist you with how the death certificate process works in Arizona and how to accurately document an acceptable cause of death.

Please visit: <http://pub.azdhs.gov/dcinfo/> for more information.

For a "how to" guide for filling out the certificate information, there is a quick reference document available for download as a pdf file at:

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/blue_form.pdf.

Another resource is the Physician's Handbook on Medical Certification of Death that is published by the National Center for Health Statistics. This handbook can be downloaded as a .pdf file at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/misc/hb_cod.pdf.

A poorly written or incomplete cause of death will likely be returned by the county health department to be redone! Our goal at Arizona Vital Records is to assist you in getting it right the first time.

If you have questions, please contact Douglas Leach, Death Registry Manager, Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Vital Records, at doug.leach@azdhs.gov.